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Friends of the Thomaston Public Library Memorial Contributions

We remember with gratitude the following deceased patrons whose families and friends generously offered memorial contributions in their honor to the Friends of the Library this fiscal year:

Carol Geddes
Elaine Dixon
Mary Barlett



**THOMASTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
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www.thomastonlibrary.org

Annual Report 2019-2020

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**Your Library
Informing - Engaging
Entertaining**

Dear Friends and Patrons

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."

Albert Einstein

The Annual Report is designed to inform the Library Board of Trustees and the citizens of Thomaston about the library's collections, programs and services offered in the year 2019-2020. The information contained in this report is based upon statistical data, collected by our library staff members and submitted to the Connecticut State Library for inclusion in its publication, *Connecticut's Public Libraries: A Statistical Profile*. The Annual Report is presented to the Library Board at its Annual Meeting, held on the first Tuesday in December, and is made available for public perusal following the Annual Meeting.

Our Annual Report provides us with the opportunity to share some of our success and challenges from the past year as well as bringing to light some of the issues that are facing us in the year to come.

2019-20 was the strangest year I have ever experienced in my years as a Librarian. We were scheduling programs and purchasing material to enhance our collection when the world shut down. Literally. As we quickly made plans for the closure we initiated curbside service, began planning for a virtual Summer Reading Program, extended due dates and loaning periods, removed fines and tried to stay in contact with our most consistent users; even telephoning them to see if we could help when we had not heard from them for a period of time. Our library closed to the public on March 17th and remained closed to in-person visits until June 17th. We

offered curbside service for the entire time we were closed to in-person visits.

When we re-opened we did so in a very strategic manner. We had Plexiglas safety dividers installed on our circulation desks, limited the number of patrons allowed into the building at one time and offered a redesigned computer access area that adheres to the social distancing guidelines of the CDC.

On June 17th, according to the Governor's Guidelines, we allowed people back in the building to use computers, browse the collection and even meet in small groups in the library. We have continued to offer curbside service for our patrons who remain concerned about entering the building.

As you review the statistic on the following pages you will notice a significant increase in our on-line circulation as people shifted to those resources.

Most of all, our staff members are thankful that the Library Trustees have supported their need to stay safe from the virus by limiting the public's access to the library. We are all concerned about what will come next with the pandemic and are constantly thinking of ways to stay engaged with the community as we navigate these very unusual times.

Stay safe,

Debra Radosevich
Library Director

The Year by the Numbers

The library's **COLLECTION** of materials as of June 30, 2020 is as follows:

BOOKS	2020	2019	2018	2017
Adult Books	23,645	23,424	23,659	23,714
Teen Books	1,487	1,488	1,518	1,574
Children's Books	13,575	13,659	13,740	13,898
Subscriptions	47	46	65	67
TOTAL Books	38,754	38,617	38,982	39,253
NON-BOOK items				
Audio	3,154	3,267	3,217	3,166
Video	4,136	3,962	3,879	3,936
Other	30	118	274	
eBooks - we own	125	120	115	106
eBooks - state owns	1,346	1,088	972	882
eAudio - we own	366	527	485	445
eAudio - state owns	3,321	3,090	2,982	2,851
TOTAL Non-Books	12,478	12,172	11,924	11,386

For 2019-20, the total **CIRCULATION** of all library materials was:

BOOKS & SERIALS	2019-20	2018-19
Adult	13,686	18,208
Teen	977	1,448
Children's	11,638	13,541
TOTAL	26,301	33,197
AUDIO		
Adult	1,349	1,875
Teen	34	11
Children's	225	146
TOTAL	1,608	2,032

VIDEO	2019-20	2018-19
Adult	6,248	7,847
Teen	4	7
Children's	1,259	2,167
TOTAL	7,511	10,021
ALL OTHER ITEMS		
TOTAL	89	564

ELECTRONIC CIRCULATION	2019-20	2018-19
eAudio	2,084	1,058
eBooks	340	195
Video	1,526	658
TOTAL	3,950	1,911

CIRCULATION TOTALS	2019-20
Total Adult Circulation	21,283
Total Teen Circulation	1,015
Total Children's Circ	13,122
Total Electronic Circ	3,950
Total Other Circulation	89
TOTAL CIRCULATION	39,459

Programs for Adults

The Thomaston Public Library's adult programs are designed to appeal to audiences of various ages and interests. Popular programs featuring health, nature, entertainment, gardening, crafts, finance and, of course, literature are offered throughout the year.

This year we presented:

The Book Discussion Group

(9 meetings)

It's A Classic! - The Classic Book Club

(3 talks led by Dr. Mark Schenker)

Volunteer Income Tax Help - VITA

Terrarium Making

US Census Recruiting Event

(3 sessions)

Jack-O-Lantern Contest

Understanding Medicare

World in a Coffee Cup - Coffee Tasting

Matt On the Go for Lifetime Learners

Woodstock: A 50th Anniversary Celebration

Home Gardening with George

(3 sessions)

Maximizing Your Social Security Benefits

The 19th Amendment: Suffrage, Sacrifice and Success

Irish Penny Whistle Workshop

What Lies Ahead in Retirement?

Wreath Making with George (2 sessions)

Holiday Centerpiece

Workshops (2 sessions)



2019-20 PROGRAMMING	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER IN ATTENDANCE
Adult	26	592
Teen	34	433
Children's	365	592
TOTAL	425	1,617

Programs for Children / Babies - Tweens - Teens

Our Children's Department continues to encourage families with children of all ages to explore the wide range of programming we have to offer. We present a variety of programs from birth to teen, our most popular events being baby time, story time, murder mysteries, and mother/daughter book club. This year's murder mystery, *Pandemonium at the Poolside*, was broken into three sessions, due to its huge success the previous year.



CHILDREN:

This past year has been a roller coaster for our children's department. We began with a successful summer reading program, "Say

Aloha with Books", with 271 participants from preschool age to teens who engaged in over 60 programs. Our program divided participants into groups based on the book *Enchanted Tiki Room* and each young patron received a gem for every library item they checked out. This program was an immense success; it bolstered circulation and involvement. With the aid of the Thomaston Rotary Club grant, tote bags were purchased for all the children and teens who registered for the program.

Family was a major focal point for our summer programming. We brought back one of our most popular family paint nights and added a new program, "Mixed: Family Edition". This new and exciting program was based on the television show "Chopped" where each family received three tropical mystery ingredients that they needed to base a dish around. Needless to say, everyone got creative with their dishes. The two favorite dishes were a pineapple, spam, and rice dish by the Carlo family and chocolate, coconut, and avocado cupcakes by the Callahan family.



As summer came to a close, we looked for ways to inspire our young patrons to give back to the community. Our new program, Helping Hands, met eve-

ry Monday from September to June. Students made goodie bags for the food pantry, cleaned up garbage around Main Street, wrote letters to young children in hospitals, and made dog treats for local animal shelters. Money raised by the group from selling baked goods at the children's craft fair contributed to items that were later donated to the food pantry.



February kicked off our winter reading program "LOVE to Read" which was inspired by a picture book by Eric Carle. Through this program we hosted "take your child to the library day", a "build a sloth" workshop, and we took a bus trip to The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, Massachusetts. The bus trip was an incredible experience for everyone involved; we were able to visit beautiful exhibitions and even view a movie about Eric Carle.

In March when the library was forced to close, our children's department staff rallied to provide our young patrons with alternative programming. Our staff continuously came up with new ways to engage our beloved patrons both virtually and off-line. Our

librarians brought story time alive online to our youngest patrons and found new ways to interact with older children through games and crafts. One of our best programs included a book club where we held an outside scavenger hunt based off of one of the books. As we continued to navigate library use during the pandemic, we found ways to use our

social media to feature weekly trivia questions about Harry Potter and Pokémon as well as promote our upcoming programs.

TEENS:

As another year comes to a close, let's reflect upon some of the great activities we have offered our teen patrons. In July we held an enlightening program, "Henna by Elyse", about the history of henna tattooing, what to avoid when getting a henna tattoo, and instruction on how teens can experiment with henna tattoo art.

One of our most popular programs each year is our teen paint night. This year's class was led by local artist Jane Morrison, a graduate of The Savannah College of Art and Design. Our teens had a great time socializing and developing their skills while Jane guided them through the process.

